

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01 AID-20 OMB-01 SY-10

RSR-01 /135 W

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R 182345 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2131

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB, AR

SUBJECT: INTERNAL CONFLICT AT CGT

1. SUMMARY. CGT SECGEN JOSE RUCCI HAS ANNOUNCED INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT OF TRIP TO 10 MEMBER CGT DELEGATION TO MADRID SCHEDULED FOR MAY 18. PURPOSE OF MISSION WAS TO EXTEND PERSONAL INVITATION TO PERON TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT EXTRAORDINARY CGT CONGRESS MAY 31 TO JUNE 2. PRESS REPORTS ATTRIBUTED POSTPONEMENT TO SERIOUS INTERNAL CGT CONFLICT CENTERING AROUND SELECTION OF NEW LABOR MINISTER. RELIABLE EMBASSY SOURCES HOWEVER INDICATE THAT MODERAT LEADERS ON CGT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ARE ALSO CONTESTING RUCCI' S AUTHORITY, PROTESTING POSSIBLE DISSOLUTION OF 62 ORGANIZATIONS AND DEMANDING PERONIST MOVEMENT ADOPT TOUGHER LINE AGAINST TERRORISM. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 15, A PAID CGT ADVERTISEMENT APPEARED IN MOST DAILY NEWSPAPERS WITH PHOTO OF RUCCI AND ANNOUNCEMENT THAT CGT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTS RUCCI AND COMMENDS HIS LEADERSHIP. ADVERTISEMENT WAS FIRST OUTWARD SIGN OF SERIOUS INTERNAL CGT PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN DEVELOPING IN RECENT WEEKS. MODERATES ARE CONCERNED WITH POSSIBLE CONCENTRATION OF EXCESSIVE POWER IN RUCCI' S HANDS AS CGT SECGEN UNDER PERONIST GOVERNMENT. THEY BELIEVE THIS COULD MATERIALIZE IF RECENT RUCCI SUPPORTED MOVE

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TO DISBAND THE PERONIST 62 ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH HAS ALWAYS SERVED AS COUNTERVAILING FORCE TO CGT, IS SUCCESSFUL. MODERATES CLAIM ABOLISHMENT OF 62 COULD LEAD TO ONE MAN RULE IF CGT SECGEN, AS IN PERON YEARS, IS ASSIGNED EX- OFFICIO CABINET STATUS IN CAMPORA GOVERNMENT.

3. KEY TO MODERATES OBJECTIVE OF ASSURING MULTI- UNION POWER BALANCE AT POLICY MAKING LEVEL OF CAMPORA GOVERNMENT IS SELECTION OF NEW LABOR MINISTER. THEY INSIST LABOR MINISTER SHOULD BE TRADE UNIONIST BUT ARE FEARFUL EX PRESIDENT PERON WILL CHOOSE NON MODERATE WHO WILL BE UNRESPONSIVE TO MODERATE MAJORITY N CGT. CHIEF MODERATE SPOKESMAN ADELINO ROMERO, WHO HEADS IMPORTANT

TEXTILE WORKER ASSOCIATION (AOT) AND IS CGT SUB SECGEN, REPORTEDLY INTENDED TO RECOMMEND FOLLOW AOT LEADER CASILDO HERRERA FOR LABOR MINISTER SLOT TO PERON DURING THE NOW POTPONED TRIP TO MADRID. HERRERA IS ALSO MEMBER OF 62 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

4. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY LABOR SOURCES ROMERO WAS ALSO GOING TO MAKE STRONG PITCH TO PERON FOR ADOPTION OF A TOUGHER PERONIST MOVEMENT POSITION ON TERRORISM. MODERATES ARE CONVINCED THEY WILL BE NEW TARGETS OF TERRORISM WITH MILITARY OUT OF GOVERNMENT. SOURCES SAY ROMERO WAS PREPARED TO SHOW PERON EVIDENCE OF THIS AND TO ALSO EXPRESS MODERATES PREOCCUPATION OVER INCREASED LEFTIST EFFORTS TO INFILTRATE PERONIST LABOR RANKS WHICH THEY CLAIM IS ABETTED BY PRESENT " SOFT- ON- TERRORISM" POSTURE.

5. COMMENT. MODERATES ARE EXERCISING DELIBERATE CAUTION IN EFFORT TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE ACCUSATION OF DEFYING PERON. THEY ARE " ADVISING AND APPEALING" AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ADHERE TO PERON' S DIRECTIVES AT LEAST UNTIL CAMPORA' S GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TESTED. PERON, HOWEVER, MUST NOW REALIZE THAT WHILE HIS CONTROL IS ABSOLUTE, IT IS CLEARLY CONDITIONED BY TIME. MODERATE LABOR LEADER APPREHENSIONS AND THEIR DECISION TO AT LEAST ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE PERONIST POLICY DIRECTION IS AN ENCOURAGING SHOW OF INDEPENDENCE, ALTHOUGH NOT LIKELY TO BE MORE THAN PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL. PERON WHILE HE LIVES WILL PROBABLY PRESERVE HIS HEGEMONY OVER THE PERONIST LABOR MOVEMENT BUT WHEN HE DIES, IT WOULD SOON LOSE IT PERONIST CHARACTER IF THE MODERATE LEADERSHIP IS ABLE TO MAINTAIN IT CURRENT MAJORITY. LODGE

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